

To Correspondents.
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NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE WAR.

The Washington Republican (extra) of yesterday afternoon says: "We feel authorized to state, since it cannot now afford information to the enemy, that the Army of the Potomac has advanced toward Richmond, and the struggle for the possession of the Rebel Capital is begun. Our army marched on Tuesday night, and has now crossed the Rapidan. The crossing was made at Jacob, Culpeper, Germania and United States Ford, and was effected without serious opposition. Lee has been compelled to fall back from the strong position where he has held out at bay all Winter. Whether he will make a stand this side of the defenses of Richmond, we are not advised. It is the opinion of some that he will fight at Chancellorsville. Every hour may now bring us news of a battle, but we are inclined to the belief that it will be a foot race for Richmond. The Rebel Capital will undoubtedly be flanked and invested, should Lee's army occupy its defenses, and the country may reasonably hope that this time Richmond will fall."

A great outcry has been made over the abandonment by the Union forces of Little Washington, N.C., and stories told of the destruction of millions upon millions of property. A dispatch from Baltimore says this is gross exaggeration. The village was small, never having more than 2,000 inhabitants, and as it was built entirely of wood, no such loss is possible. The sensation news here alluded to says that "Four thousand Union troops suddenly evacuated this Gibraltar of America in the face of seven companies of Rebels, leaving the entire Union population of the city to the tender mercies of the enemy, after burning their houses over their heads and leaving them without a mouthful of food, or so much as a bed to pillow the heads of the sick and dying." Of course there can be no substantial truth in such a libelous colored picture.

The Richmond Examiner thus winds up an editorial fully justifying and glorifying in the massacre at Fort Pillow: "Repeat Fort Pillow, repeat it with a few times, and we shall bring the Yankees to their senses; and, what is even better, our Government will also to a proper sense of its position as an organ of a nation, and no longer act as if it were the joint of a set of revolvers." The Examiner finds no evidence of massacre at all, and refers to the hospitalities extended to Gen. Chambers by the officers of the steamer Platte Valley as proof that no outrage was committed. The editor adds that "a negro at \$5,000 is too valuable to be shot."

A private letter from Admiral Porter, dated off Alexandria, April 17, states that he had come down to the river the next day. This statement by Admiral Porter is considered conclusive evidence by the Government that Gen. Banks was not then falling back upon Alexandria, as he must have done in order to reach there on the 25th, the time in which the recent telegraph fixes him there.

The statement now being extensively published, that "Gen. Halleck has been assigned to the Cavalry Bureau," turns out to be incorrect. The truth is, the Cavalry Bureau has recently been directed to report to him, as Chief of Staff, on other branches of the service.

West Point, Va., at the head of York River, was occupied by a portion of our forces on Monday, the 2d inst. Three of the Rebel pickets stationed there came in and gave themselves up.

Government has ordered an immediate draft in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Minnesota, Kentucky, and Maryland, to fill deficiencies in their quotas.

The Provost-Marshal-General announces that the draft will take place in this State on Monday next.

CONGRESS.

SENATE, May 5.—Mr. Chandler reported a bill to prevent smuggling, which provides that after the 1st day of August next all baggage and effects of passengers, and all other articles coming into the United States from any foreign country, shall be inspected, and if any dutiable articles shall be found, the trunk, valise, or other envelope, shall be confiscated. Mr. Collamer reported back the House bill to establish an ocean mail steamship service between the United States and Brazil, with amendments. The amendments of the Committee which relate to the details of the contract with the steamship owners were adopted. Mr. Wilkinson desired to offer an amendment, and asked that the bill lay over. Agreed to. Mr. Ward presented a bill to amend the act to enable the people of Nevada to form a State Government and Constitution. It provides for holding an election for the adoption of the Constitution on the first Wednesday in September, instead of the first Tuesday in October. It was passed. The National Currency bill then came up. Mr. Sherman offered an amendment to the amendment of the clause affecting the Bank of Commerce, New-York City. It allows the Controller to close the affairs of the bank, if at any time the capital shall be less than five millions, with a surplus of 50 per cent. Adopted. Mr. Wade made a report from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, accompanied by the evidence, in relation to the capture of Fort Pillow, and moved that 25,000 copies be printed for the use of the Senate. Adopted. Mr. Sumner moved a substitute for the Finance Committee's amendment to the Bank bill. It provides that every Association shall pay to the United States a duty of one per cent upon its circulation, one-half of one per cent on its deposits, one-half per cent on its capital stock above the amount invested in United States bonds, each half-year after January, 1867. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Special Order, viz: the bill to reimburse Pennsylvania for the expenses incurred in calling out troops to repel invasion. The motion was disagreed to by a vote of 54 against 80. The question was upon the passage of the bill appropriating \$700,000 for the Pennsylvania militia, which was amended by appropriating \$15,000,000 to defray the expenses of other loyal States in repelling raids. Adopted—71 to 63. Mr. Morrill moved that evening sessions be dispensed with until further order, leaving the House to adjourn at such hour as it may see fit. Adopted. Mr. Gooch, from the Committee on the Conduct of the War, made a report on the Fort Pillow massacre, and moved that 50,000 copies be printed. Adjourned.

GENERAL NEWS.

In order that no time may be lost through the delays of the Council in passing an ordinance prohibiting gambling establishments within the city limits, City Inspector Boole recommends that the Board of Health be convened to take immediate action in the matter. He says that complaints are daily made to him in regard to these nuisances, and that, aside from their offensive character to people residing in the neighborhood, they are sufficient to breed a pestilence as soon as the warm weather sets in. This question is one of the gravest importance, and we trust that early action will be taken by the corporate authorities or the Board of Health to put a stop at once to these nuisances by the passage of an ordinance inflicting heavy penalties upon any person who shall carry on so offensive a business within the city limits. Mr. Boole has also in con-

templation another onslaught on the slaughter-houses, and has in preparation a plan for the establishment of abattoirs, which it is supposed will receive favorable consideration at the hands of the corporate authorities. By the arrival of the Ocean Queen we have later news from Central and South America. The Government of Nicaragua has concluded a contract with Capt. Pin to build an interoceanic railroad. The project of a railroad across the Andes in Chili attracts much interest. The elections in Chili have mostly resulted in favor of the Government. The Minister of the United States in Chili has offered to the Government of Chili the mediation of the United States in the difficulty between Chili and Bolivia. The offer has been, for the present, declined by Chili, but with an expression of the profoundest gratitude for the fraternal sentiments of the United States toward the Republic of South America. Spain is assuming a more threatening attitude toward Peru.

The fearless and utterly reckless driving of certain horse-owners in this city, and especially of butcher-bays, was fully administered in the Supreme Court yesterday, where a young woman got a verdict of \$5,000 for damages caused by one of those two wheeled nuisances. The people are at fault in this business. They ought to remember that the law gives the right of way to foot passengers—that any man, woman, or child desiring to cross a street can compel all vehicles to stop while they pass. They ought also to remember that there is a law regulating the rate of speed for carriages and cabs, and when they see it violated they should cause the arrest of the offender and insist upon his punishment.

The Union Central Committee, of which Wm. A. Darling is the Chairman, met last night, and ordered a call for a primary election on the 18th inst. for the choice of two delegates and two alternates from each Assembly District to the Syracuse Convention.

Gold sold steadily at 177½-177; during business hours, and closed at 177½. The market has been largely sold, and stocks are harder to borrow than money at 4 per cent. It is the scarcity confined to a few descriptions. Freight is still very dull and depressed, though rates are unchanged. Money is abundant on call at 6 per cent, and at this rate very large amounts have been refused by lending borrowers, who express their inability to pay funds at any price. Prime commercial paper sells at 6½-7 per cent.

The report of the Committee sent to examine into the Fort Pillow massacre was submitted to Congress yesterday, and is published in other columns. We have only space this morning to say that it more than confirms the previous accounts of the Rebel atrocities.

The circular petition, published by us a few days since, asking a postponement of the Baltimore Convention, has been circulated among Senators and Representatives in Congress, State officers, and members of the Legislatures of the different States. It is probable that by this measure a true index to the popular wish in regard to this subject will be obtained. The responses to the circular thus far, are, we are informed, with a single exception, in favor of a postponement of the Convention till September. A full expression of opinion, it is hoped, may be elicited, and an early reply is asked by those who have the matter in charge.

The call, which has been for some time under advisement, of a Free National Convention to consider the Presidential question, appears in our columns this morning. The Convention is to be held at Cleveland, Ohio, and on Tuesday, the 31st inst. It is not called in the interest of any particular aspirant; the invitation is broad and general; and those who may assemble are left perfectly free to act at the Convention and afterward as their convictions of public interest and duty shall dictate.

We deem of vital consequence the ultimate union in the choice of our next President of all who earnestly desire the Rebellion suppressed and its cause eradicated. But, in order that there may be union at the vital moment, let there be perfect freedom in the preliminary consultations. No one will be precluded from acting in the canvass as he shall then see fit by participating in the doings of this Free Convention.

INTEREST ON CURRENCY.

The Government has decided—in our judgment, wisely and properly—to call out for a short period a large force of the Uniformed Militia of the thoroughly loyal States to second and support the efforts of our Armies now operating against the core of the Rebellion. We urged this course last Spring, and regret that it was not then resolved on. We believe it will now be crowned with beneficent results. Of course, the brief term of these Militiamen might be trifled and idled away, as other golden opportunities have been; but we have no fear that it will be. One Hundred Thousand Uniformed Militia may be so disposed and employed as to liberate an equal number of enlisted men from garrison and post duty and send them forward to aid their brethren immediately in the face of the enemy; and this reinforcement may transform what would otherwise be defeat into victory, or may make victories which would else be indecisive yield the blessed fruits of Peace, Union and Freedom.

In a single aspect only does the policy of this new call seem questionable—namely, that of Finance. We were already spending over Two Millions per day on military operations; and here is an extra call for Twenty-five Millions to start with, and perhaps for double that amount before we are done with it. But, if it enable Gen. Grant to give the Nation victory and peace, the price will not be grudged by any patriot.

But how are we to raise the means of meeting these enormous outlays?

A Copperhead has no trouble in the premises. He will tell you that the Government ought to raise all it needs by taxes; but, when any attempt to tax is made, he is morally certain to oppose it. He overflows with venom against Secretary Chase and "Legal Tender," knowing well that the measures he so loudly condemns were and are indispensable to the prosecution of the War. What he really wants and strives for is the breaking down of the Government, giving him a chance to baroque against the hereditary, traditional, constitutional incapacity of those now in power to administer it, and to insist that the only way out of our troubles is through the return of his party to power and a consequent bringing of the Nation to its knees before the slaveholding Rebels, in the hope that they may be induced to relent and take us into their Confederacy. Such is the end steadily aimed at by those who—less honest than the Longs, Woods, and Ben. Harrises—pretend to support the War,

but insist that only by a Democratic Administration and on Democratic principles can it be brought to a successful issue.

The Rebellion has seized the entire material resources of the region over which it dominates. Poor Whites who loathe it are ruthlessly conscripted to fill the ranks of its armies, stripped of their horses to mount its cavalry and their neat cattle and swine to feed them, while their families are left to subsist, if they can, by beggary and crime. The Blacks who utterly detest it are compelled to grind in its prison-house incessantly, growing food and erecting defenses for a cause they intensely loathe. The slaveholding caste has the entire region by the throat; so that which is familiarly known throughout the South as "the rich man's war and the poor man's fight" must go on, though not a third of the Southern people have either faith in or love for it. The inestimable right to dog men and women to compel them to work for nothing and to give up their children to be sold at auction for the profit of the dogger, is at stake; and in vain have Bishop Polk fought, and Bishop Hopkins written, and many other ecclesiastical dignitaries wrested the Scriptures to the support of organized, gigantic iniquity, if that right shall now be overthrown. So long as bloodhounds can smell out another conscript or commissaries snatch food from starving families to feed their gaunt hosts, so long will the Rebel slaveholders maintain their struggle for the destruction of their country. But a signal Union victory would do very much to break their power over their hitherto subservient vassals, and we hope Gen. Grant may soon be enabled to achieve one.

Meaning, the Government must have money—a great deal of it—and every loyal citizen must do his utmost to satisfy this urgent need. We cannot return to Specie Payment till we shall have virtually crushed the Rebellion and ended the War; then, we soon may. Meantime, the Government must use its credit to the needed extent, in whatever manner shall seem most feasible and efficient.

In our judgment, the interest-bearing Legal-Tender note has capacities for such an emergency which have not yet been fathomed. Banks have been enriched by drawing interest on the money in most men's pockets; the time has come when at least a part of this interest should accrue to the People who hold the notes. Suppose a Legal-Tender paper were issued drawing interest at the rate of one cent per day on each \$100, or a little less than four per cent per annum—no interest to be paid but for the even years that shall have elapsed between the issue of the notes and their presentation respectively for redemption—who does not realize that these notes would form a very acceptable Circulating Medium? The American traveler to the Old World might deposit these with his banker as collateral for any credits he might require, knowing that each \$1,000 so deposited would be earning him over ten cents per day, while they would be instantly available and convertible if required. We are confident that here is a mine of Public Credit which has not yet been half explored.

But there is another form of interest-bearing Legal Tender which might be employed to great advantage—that of \$100, \$500, and \$1,000 notes, drawing interest at the rate of six per cent per annum in coin, but no interest payable thereon till the note shall be presented at the Treasury at or after the expiration of three years from the date of its issue. Such notes would for a time be simply "Legal Tender," passing from hand to hand, and into and out of banks, like our ordinary currency; but, after a while, each would fall into the hands of some one who would say: "There has already two [three or four] per cent interest accrued on this: I will hold on to it, and make this when it falls due." Very soon, these notes, having thus been quietly withdrawn from circulation, would bear a premium, and would be "turned" in the purchase of farms or houses, stock or goods, at or near the value which time had added to them; that is to say: a note which carried a year's interest would be accepted in large payments as worth four or five per cent premium; one that had two years' interest on it would be worth eight or twelve per cent premium, &c.; but they would never return to the condition of ordinary currency, and would not serve to inflate the circulating medium. Thus a very large amount of Public Securities would be quietly, noiselessly absorbed into private chests and safes, and a very important aid rendered in tiding over the time, be it shorter or longer, that must yet precede the utter collapse and downfall of the Maud-Thieves' Rebellion.

GEN. McCLELLAN.

The Newport News (Vt.) seems anxious to differ with us respecting Gen. McClellan, and discusses his merits in an article which *The N. Y. Express* pronounces "of the right sort." We had stated the fact that, of the many residents of the Free States whom we personally knew to be partisans and justifiers of the Slaveholders' Rebellion, every one is a noisy, zealous admirer and champion of Gen. McClellan. Is this or is it not the truth? We affirm it to be; and *The News* does not dispute it. Here is what it says on the subject:

"Gen. McClellan is a true man, because one hundred thousand good and true soldiers of the United States Army respect and honor him as an officer and a soldier—a man who is ready to sacrifice his life to save the Government of a people who will reverse his name long after his traitors are dead and forgotten. Though we never expect to support Gen. McClellan in any political contest, we will never abuse him because he has been so unfortunate as to have had men for his 'noisy champions.' If there is any truth in history, the same sort of clique at one time attempted to warm and agitate Washington. The man who boldly accused Gen. McClellan of treachery and treason, says no less of every soldier who has been under his command. We accordingly assert mildly, yet decidedly, if we are to have such men as Horace Greely to put down this Rebellion, and tie the hands of such men as McClellan and his soldier friends, the sooner we stop this fighting the better for us."

—Does this meet the issue? Was there ever a time during our Revolutionary contest when all the Tories and cowboys in the country were shouting for Gen. Washington, and insisting that he alone could break the power of Great Britain? Had a Tory revolt broken out in Virginia during our fathers' fearful struggle, would the rebels have been likely to go and cheer before the windows of Gen. Washington's house, as the anti draft rioters of this city did last Summer, between their several experiments

in arson and robbery, under those of Gen. McClellan's house? What is it that makes "Little Mac" a universal favorite among those who insist that the Rebels are substantially right and can never be "subjugated"? Are not these questions worth an answer?

Among the leading subscribers to the McClellan sword at our Sanitary Fair were the Editor of *The Chicago Times*, who has been one of the most thoroughgoing advocates and apologists of the Rebels, and the wife of a New-York Editor who, we were long since advised, has never made any secret of her entire sympathy with the Rebellion. And so, all about us, are men who insist that the Rebels can never be put down, and never ought to be, and that Gen. McClellan ought to command our armies. How can we help putting this and that together?

We cannot see how "a soldier who has been under his command" should be an exclusive judge of the value of Gen. McClellan's services to the National cause. That Gen. M. was called to the command of the Army of the Potomac in July, 1861—that said Army, then 50,000, was rapidly swelled to 150,000, and in December to over 200,000—so much is verified by Gen. M.'s own vaunted Report. Now that this vast Army remained for months cooped up and virtually besieged in and around Washington, by a Rebel force inferior in numbers, which closed the navigation of the Potomac on the one hand, and obstructed the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad on the other, are facts which admit of no dispute. We say that the Rebel force which thus besieged him was not half so large as his; Gen. McClellan makes it about two-thirds; the difference is material; how does a soldier who served under that General know which of us is right? And how is "every soldier who has been under his command" implicated in the incapacity, ineffectuality, or treason, which kept our great army idle and beleaguered, though unsheltered, during those memorable months?

The N. Y. Express, in the very issue whence we clip the above extract from *The News*, has a letter from an officer in the Army of the Potomac, dated "Culpeper C. H., April 20th, 1864," wherein he says:

"Our men are in good spirits and almost anxious for the struggle to begin. The only thing that would give us heart is to see the Rebels. We still remember the battles of the Peninsula, South Mountain, and Antietam, where they tried him for us and we found wanting. 'Unfortunately for our common cause, the Administration of Gen. McClellan, as an experienced soldier, might expect some for certain operations and officers, who are filling their pockets with the spoils of war, every particle of which is drenched and bought with the hearts' blood of thousands of the best and bravest men of our once happy and prosperous country. Gen. McClellan knows where the real struggle will be, and many fear before it ends the name American, which four short years ago was the pride and wonder of the world, will be numbered among the things that are dead.'"

—Now, these grave imputations upon those to whom the People have intrusted the chief conduct of their public affairs, are an essential part of the grounds whereon Gen. McClellan's restoration to command is required. Is it true that our authorities are trying to protract the War? Is it true that the interest of "speculators" is preferred by them to the overthrow of the Rebellion? If it is, they ought to be hurled from power at once—by revolution, if necessary. But it is not true; but a base, wicked, fiendish, treasonable slander. Our Government is not so strong as we wish it was and hope it may be; but it is honestly exerting all its power to put down the Rebellion. There is not another man in all this land who would more gladly hear of its overthrow than would the President of the United States; and, next to him, his Cabinet are earnestly solicitors for the earliest possible honorable close of the War. Could it help the country in her present straits to put power into the hands of men who think and talk as this officer does? Yet these are they who want Gen. McClellan at the head of our armies.

THE OPENING CAMPAIGN.

A dispatch from Washington informs the country that the Army of the Potomac has crossed the Rapidan. The movement was by four fords—Jacobs, Culpeper, Germania Mills, and United States, and was effected without serious opposition. The additional information that Lee has been compelled to fall back from his entrenched position, and that it is doubtful whether he will make a stand this side of Richmond, may be dismissed as inferential. The remaining speculations of this dispatch are of still less consequence, and it is to be read as conveying no other authentic statement than that first above given.

It is scarcely worth while to comment on the meager account thus furnished. In connection with the statement, also received yesterday, that West Point, on the Peninsula, has been occupied by Gen. Butler's advance, and by the recently issued orders of Gen. Meade, printed yesterday morning, which unmistakably indicated an immediate movement, the dispatch may be credited as an announcement of the beginning of the campaign. It is not necessarily affected by the report, also received from Washington yesterday, that no fighting had taken place up to Wednesday night. Such information as has come to us during the last ten days has pointed to an early opening of hostilities; and whatever may be the exact position of the army at this moment, it has probably taken a decisive step across the river, and fired its first shot in a campaign destined to be the most momentous of the war.

A crossing at a ford so far east as Fredericksburg, which is within fourteen miles of United States, seems to commit Gen. Grant to an effort against Lee's flank. It is noticeable, also, that the army of Gen. Meade, lying south of the north fork of the Rappahannock, must cross that ford in order to reach United States, and as such a movement was not necessary while Germania and the adjacent fords lay open, we are led to infer that another body of troops, hitherto unaccounted for, has been transferred at this point and is to join the main body by the well-known turnpike leading from Fredericksburg to Orange Court-House. Assuming that the entrenched position of Lee's army terminates at Mine Run, there is nothing in the inferred positions of the columns crossing at the specified fords inconsistent with the supposition of a general flank movement. Hence the hasty

guess that Lee has abandoned his works, but those works have a long front to the east on the wooden and broken banks of Mine Run, and may be held spite of the terrors of a turning force.

We have met with the assertion within two days that Lee has really fallen back from the Rapidan, but now, as formerly, we consider it the most unlikely course for him to adopt, because it involves the sacrifice of strongly-fortified positions and lines, the profile of which has been carefully preserved, and which certainly have been maintained under the inspection of the national force that all Winter occupied the opposite bank of the river. Lee is scarcely the man to allow himself to be shut up in Richmond without an effort to keep the field. In a word, we believe that whoever expects to march to Richmond has to fight his way.

That the advance from the Rapidan is to find coöperation in an advance from Fortress Monroe, and that the whole Virginia campaign is in connection with an advance in the West, especially upon Northern Georgia, we presume is generally anticipated. But whatever may be the plans of Gen. Grant, we all rejoice that they are the plans of one man, who is clothed with the power to execute them, and that there is to be no more discord or jangling or divided responsibility. Upon one man, wielding with his single will three great armies, the nation bends its earnest gaze. Vex him with no impatient criticism, no angry reproach, if at one point or another there is failure or delay, but while we profoundly feel that under his guidance the war approaches a tremendous crisis, let us await the development and result of the general plan which he seeks to put in execution. The army goes forward strong in a just cause, in its own valor, in the skill of its leader, and in the confidence of the people. God grant it victory!

GARIBOLDI'S DEPARTURE.

The London correspondence of *The N. Y. Evening Post* fully confirms the opinion we yesterday expressed about the real cause of Garibaldi's sudden departure from England. The correspondent is an intimate friend of Garibaldi, and he learned from the General himself that he left England "because the English Government hinted to him that his continued presence would embarrass them with regard to the Government of France." The Napoleonic intimation was conveyed to him by Mr. Gladstone and Lord Shaftesbury.

Garibaldi's own testimony settles the question, then, if this correspondent speaks by authority. But what must we think of Lord Clarendon, who, in the House of Lords, denied that "the departure of Garibaldi was hastened by any representations on the part of the French Government?" or of Lord Palmerston, who assured the House of Commons that Garibaldi was about "to close his visit on account of his health?" or of Mr. Gladstone, who stated in the same House that "there was no ground for the ridiculous reports that umbrage was taken on the other side of the water at the reception of Gen. Garibaldi in England?" or of the Earl of Shaftesbury, who, in a letter to *The London Times*, confirms, "on the word of a gentleman," the statement "that he and other friends of the General, in giving their advice, were influenced solely by considerations for his health and position?"

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to *The N. Y. Tribune*.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 5, 1864.

ACQUITTED.

The verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the case of Margaret Ann Duval, about which there were scandalous reports, and which was to involve a son of Commissioner Lewis, was rendered this evening, that she died of pneumonia. Young Lewis is wholly and most honorably exonerated from all connection with the case. The post-mortem examination acquitted him triumphantly.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.

All the troops we shall lose by the concession to the Pennsylvania Reserves are two thousand, and two-thirds of these will not march out of the Army for six weeks.

THE NEVADA CONSTITUTIONAL ELECTION.

A bill passed the Senate to-day changing the Nevada constitutional election from the second Tuesday of October to the first Wednesday of September.

NO COMMUNICATION WITH THE FRONT.

All passenger trains and passes to and from the front have been stopped. Philanthropists and sight-seers will lose their journeys here.

WHY CONGRESS ADJOURNED OVER TO-NIGHT.

The House voted not to hold a session this evening. It was a decorous, indeed an irrepressible waiting upon the great movement of the army. The nation hangs on Grant's march.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 5, 1864.

THE REPORTED ABUSE OF IMMIGRANTS FROM IRELAND.

The Secretary of State has received a letter from William B. West, United States Consul at Dublin, dated April 30, in which he says: "So many falsehoods and calumnies have been started in the public press as to the treatment of the famous one hundred and two men brought out by Fenway and Mr. Kidder of Boston, who were said to be forced into enlistment by being starved, drugged, &c., and this Government having directed their Minister, Lord Lyons, to get at an explanation thereof from you, I have thought it advisable to send you copies of two letters from several written in a similar strain to poor persons here by the recipients of Kidder's and Fenway's five hundred dollar reward. I returned at Portland till next day, and I could get work there at \$25 per day if I liked to stop, but I was not in working trim, for I did not eat three good meals of grub during the time I was coming across, so I came to Boston the next day and called for the 3d Cavalry, which is stationed now in New Orleans, or rather on the Texas, but it is in New Orleans where I will have to leave my drill. I got \$400 in hand and sent you home \$300. Truly got \$400 in hand. The remainder I got in installments every two months along with my pay. Everything is very dear here at present. Butter is 50 cents a pound, sugar 12 cents a pound, and everything in proportion; but still, wages are good. No one need starve here, but one is laboring under the idea that men are very scarce here. It is no such thing; there is plenty of them. Dear parents would be surprised to see the number of men enlisting in the 3d Cavalry. The generally of them are dressed like gentlemen, with watches in their pockets. It is a

good thing that you cannot be forced to do anything here. "As to forcing us to enlist, no one could do it, except you, were a citizen. Then you would be subject to the draft, and you must be three years in the country before that can be done. We would be very comfortable here, only there is no chance of drink on the island. I have seen fellows here for a quart of whiskey. All of the fellows are buying watches out of their booty, and fancy shirts but I bought nothing. I don't understand it. I might get shot, and some guerrillas might have the pleasure of turning me over some of them, and I don't want to be shot. I was already led to believe, the men took to me as easy here as at home," &c.

Another recruit, writing to his "dear parents" from Galapagos Island, Boston Harbor, March 17, 1864, says: "It took us fourteen days to come to Portland, and when we landed, there was hundreds of civilians to meet us. They gave us brandy, whiskey, rum, puddings, cigars, or anything we wished for, to enlist along with them. Faith, we took all we got, and did not go with them after all. Fenway brought us over with the intention of making us drunk and enlisting us after, but he was disappointed, for any of us that did not go with him. The bounty was very tempting, and I enlisted the first day I came here. I have sent you in this letter \$300. There is a good many of the men enlisted here, and a great many did not go to the 5th Massachusetts Regiment of foot."

THE INCREASE OF DUTIES.

The following circular relative to the late law increasing duties has been addressed to all collecting officers:

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, May 5, 1864. In view of the numerous inquiries as to the effect of the recent enactment increasing duties on imports sent into operation, the following instruction is published for the government of collecting officers. The joint resolution of April 29, enacting the increase, is hereby published for the government of the United States. That under the acts increasing duties from and after their passage, the increase provided for takes effect on the day of passing. The Secretary is constrained, therefore, to hold that the increase of duty required by the joint resolution took effect on the 29th of April, and that consequently all persons who have paid duties at former rates on or after any following day are liable to pay the additional duty for such goods. Collectors and all surveyors charged with the collection of duties, will be governed accordingly.

S. P. CHASE, Secretary of the Treasury.

THE CASE OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RESERVES.

On Sunday a telegram was received at the headquarters of the Army of the Potomac, to the effect that the War Department had determined to accept the State motto of the Pennsylvania Reserves. A staff officer writes to a friend in this city: "The whole matter is now at rest."

THE TEN-FORTY LOAN.

The subscriptions to the 10-40 loan reported at the Treasury to-day amount to \$502,000.

CONDITION OF PAROLED PRISONERS.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War go to Annapolis tomorrow to examine the prisoners returned from Richmond.

THE SALE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY IN THE INSURRECTIONARY STATES.

The Secretary of the Treasury has submitted to the Commerce Committee of the House a bill sanctioning the sales of such captured and abandoned property in the insurrectionary States as live stock, planting implements, machinery, wagons, and similar articles, at points where collected, instead of having to be sent, according to previous acts, to loyal States to be sold; placing abandoned plantations and freedmen under the same general directions, instead of under different supervisions, as is now the case, providing for payment into the Treasury of surplus of fees (not payment of expenses) derived from licenses of restricted commercial intercourse between loyal and insurrectionary States, allowing persons residing within our lines to conduct trade and transport supplies without being subject to the prohibitions and penalties of acts of July 13, 1861, applying to persons in loyal States, sanctioning restrictions imposed, under acts of July 13, 1861, and May 20, 1862, upon trade and transportation in loyal States, for the purpose of preventing supplies to Rebels, providing that the Courts decreeing forfeiture of condemned property may make meritorious distribution of proceeds, instead of the arbitrary distribution of one-half to informers and custom officers; amending the laws governing maritime prizes, so as to guard against a conflict between the rights and duties of the land and naval forces, and prevent immense losses to the country and the Government; and abrogating the present system under which individuals are licensed to purchase Southern staples, and permitting the Government alone to purchase and transport these staples.

PROMOTIONS OF CLERKS IN THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

The following promotions of Clerks have just been made in the Register's Office of the Treasury Department, to take effect from 1st of April, under act of March 14, authorizing an increase of clerical force: FROM THIRD CLASS (\$1,600) TO FOURTH CLASS (\$1,000).—John R. Nourse, Ind. L. D. Reynolds, Ohio, Henry C. Gild, Pa. Allen C. Smith, N. Y. FROM SECOND CLASS (\$1,400) TO THIRD CLASS (\$1,000).—John R. Nourse, Ind. L. D. Reynolds, Ohio, Henry C. Gild, Pa. Allen C. Smith, N. Y. FROM FIRST CLASS (\$1,200) TO SECOND CLASS (\$1,400).—John R. Nourse, Ind. L. D. Reynolds, Ohio, Henry C. Gild, Pa. Allen C. Smith, N. Y. FROM FIRST CLASS (\$1,200) TO SECOND CLASS (\$1,400).—John R. Nourse, Ind. L. D. Reynolds, Ohio, Henry C. Gild, Pa. Allen C. Smith, N. Y. FROM FIRST CLASS (\$1,200) TO SECOND CLASS (\$1,400).—John R. Nourse, Ind. L. D. Reynolds, Ohio, Henry C. Gild, Pa. Allen C. Smith, N. Y.

Close of the Pennsylvania Legislature—Movement of Artillery—The Vote on the Pennsylvania Constitutional Amendment—Reported Raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

Special Dispatch to *The N. Y. Tribune*.

HARRISBURG, Thursday, May 5, 1864.

Both Houses of the Legislature adjourned to-day. Speaker Johnson of the House made a very affecting, touching closing address. Both Houses were well up with their work. All bills of public importance recommended by the Governor were passed.

A battery of artillery passed through here to-day on its way to the Potomac. It is heretofore stationed in Schuylkill County. It goes to John Sigel's command. The two Houses met again on the 23d of August to count the votes cast on the amendments to the Constitution giving the soldiers the right to vote at the election to be held on the first Tuesday of August. Information from private sources received here states that Imboden's cavalry cut the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad last night, at or near Piedmont and New Creek. Gen. Sigel is fully prepared.

Raid on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, May 5, 1864.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is not at all interrupted, but it was threatened for a time early this morning by seventy mounted men, under McNeill of West Virginia, who came in at Piedmont, 25 miles west of Charlestown, and after cutting the telegraph wires, burning several cars, running half a dozen locomotives off the track, and frightening the women and children badly, left as suddenly as they appeared, in fear of the approach of Gen. Kelley and his detachment gathered up at Cumberland and New-Creek, who sallied out promptly in search of the marauders.

No passengers or freight were injured or captured, and all the trains are running regularly. The wife of Maj.-Gen. Wallace was on the eastward passenger train, and the daughters of Gen. Schenck were on that bound West, but fortunately with the other passengers they escaped molestation.